

1. (Amended) A method of supervising personal exposure to a consumer electronics device, the method comprising:

~~permanently storing~~ selecting one of one or more preset content-based specification sets previously stored by the manufacturer in permanent memory within the consumer electronics device, each of the one or more preset specification sets comprising a rating and a subject matter category;

receiving a program signal suitable for conversion by the consumer electronics device into user discernible information;

receiving a content-based indicator set indicative of a rating and a subject matter category of the program signal;

~~selecting one of the one or more preset content-based specification sets;~~

comparing the selected preset content-based specification set with the received content-based indicator set; and

impairing the program signal based on the comparison.

2. (No Change) The method of claim 1, wherein the received content-based indicator set is carried by the program signal.

3. (No Change) The method of claim 1, wherein the program signal is impaired if the received content-based indicator set transgresses the selected preset content-based specification set.

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4. (No Change) The method of claim 1, wherein the rating of the respective preset content-based specification and content-based indicator sets is a television rating.

5. (No Change) The method of claim 1, wherein the rating of the respective preset content-based specification and content-based indicator sets is a movie rating.

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6. (No Change) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject matter category of the respective preset content-based specification and content-based indicator sets is one of FV (Fantasy Violence), D (Sexual Dialog), L (Adult Language), S (Sexual Situations) and V (Violence).

7. (No Change) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more preset content-based specification sets comprises a plurality of preset content-based specification sets.

8. (No Change) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more preset content-based specification sets is a single content-based specification set.

9. (No Change) The method of claim 1, wherein the preset content-based specification set is selected via a menu.

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10. (No Change) The method of claim 1, wherein the preset content-based specification set is selected via a dedicated function key.

11. (No Change) The method of claim 1, wherein selection of the preset content-based specification set is effected in response to entry of a valid passcode.

12. (No Change) The method of claim 1, wherein selection of the preset content-based specification set is effected in response to entry of valid user information.

13. (Amended) Permanent recordable media for a consumer electronics device, comprising:

one or more preset content-based specification sets preset by the manufacturer,
each of the one or more preset content-based specification sets comprising a rating
and a subject matter category; and

a computer program comprising the steps:

selecting one of the one or more preset content-based specification sets upon
command by a user of the consumer electronics device;

comparing the selected preset content-based specification set with a content-based indicator set received by the consumer electronics device, the received content-based indicator set indicating a rating and a subject matter category of a program signal received by the consumer electronics device; and

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generating a control signal in response to the comparison between the selected preset content-based specification set and the received content-based indicator set.

14. (No Change) The permanent recordable media of claim 13, wherein a blocking control signal is generated if the received content-based indicator set transgresses the selected preset content-based specification set, and wherein generation of the control signal impairs a program signal received by the consumer electronics device.

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15. (No Change) The permanent recordable media of claim 13, wherein the rating of the respective preset content-based specification and content-based indicator sets is a television rating.

16. (No Change) The permanent recordable media of claim 13, wherein the rating of the respective preset content-based specification and content-based indicator sets is a movie rating.

17. (No Change) The permanent recordable media of claim 13, wherein the subject matter category of the respective preset content-based specification and content-based indicator sets is one of FV (Fantasy Violence), D (Sexual Dialog), L (Adult Language), S (Sexual Situations) and V (Violence).

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18. (No Change) The permanent recordable media of claim 13, wherein the one or more preset content-based specification sets comprises a plurality of preset content-based specification sets.

19. (No Change) The permanent recordable media of claim 13, wherein the one or more preset content-based specification sets is a single content-based specification set.

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20. (Amendment) A consumer electronics device having "V-chip" circuitry for supervising personal exposure to user discernible information, comprising:

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permanent nonvolatile memory comprising one or more preset content-based specification sets preset by the manufacturer, each of the preset content-based specification sets comprising a rating and a subject matter category;

a logic unit coupled to the nonvolatile memory and being configured for:

selecting one of the one or more preset content-based specification sets upon command from a user of the consumer electronics device;

comparing the selected content-based specification set with a content-based indicator set received by the consumer electronics device, the received content-based indicator set indicating a rating and a subject matter category of a program signal received by the consumer electronics device; and

generating a control signal based on the comparison between the selected content-based specification set and the content-based indicator set; and

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a program signal impairment mechanism coupled to the logic unit and configured for, based on the control signal, selectively passing a program signal without substantial impairment or impairing the program signal.

21. (No Change) The consumer electronics device of claim 20, further comprising an output device coupled to the program signal impairment mechanism for transforming the program signal into the user discernible information.

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22. (No Change) The consumer electronics device of claim 20, further comprising a data entry system for commanding the logic unit to select one of the one or more content-based specification set.

23. (No Change) The consumer electronics device of claim 20, wherein the program signal carries the content-based indicator set, and further comprising a data extraction device coupled to the logic unit for extracting the content-based indicator set from the program signal.

24. (No Change) The consumer electronics device of claim 20, wherein the program signal impairment device is a switch.

25. (No Change) The consumer electronics device of claim 20, wherein the program signal impairment device is a scrambler.

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26. (No Change) The consumer electronics device of claim 20, wherein the output device is a television system audio/video output device.

27. (No Change) The consumer electronics device of claim 20, wherein the permanent nonvolatile memory is ROM.

28. (No Change) The consumer electronics device of claim 20, wherein the logic unit is a microcomputer.

29. (New) A method of supervising personal exposure to a consumer electronics device, the method comprising:

accessing a menu system stored in permanent memory within the consumer electronic device, the menu system including a menu comprising a first selection for accessing a preset criteria menu and a second selection for accessing a custom criteria menu, wherein the preset criteria menu includes one or more selections corresponding to preset content-based specification sets stored in permanent memory, each of the preset specification sets comprising a rating and a subject matter category, and wherein the custom criteria menu includes a plurality of selections corresponding to ratings and subject matter categories individually stored in permanent memory;

selecting the first selection and accessing the preset criteria menu;

selecting a first preset criteria; and

storing the first preset criteria in memory as a current content-based specification set.

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30. (New) The method of claim 29 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a program signal suitable for conversion by the consumer electronics device into user discernible information;

receiving a content-based indicator set indicative of a rating and a subject matter category of the program signal;

comparing the current content-based specification set with the received content-based indicator set; and

impairing the program signal based on the comparison.

B' 31. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the received content-based indicator set is carried by the program signal.

32. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the program signal is impaired if the received content-based indicator set transgresses the current content-based specification set.

33. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the rating of the respective preset content-based specification and content-based indicator sets is a television rating.

34. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the rating of the respective preset content-based specification and content-based indicator sets is a movie rating.

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(New) The method of claim 29, wherein the subject matter category of the respective preset content-based specification and content-based indicator sets is one of FV (Fantasy Violence), D (Sexual Dialog), L (Adult Language), S (Sexual Situations) and V (Violence).

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(New) The method of claim 29, wherein the one or more preset content-based specification sets comprises a plurality of preset content-based specification sets.

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(New) The method of claim 29, wherein the one or more preset content-based specification sets is a single content-based specification set.

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(New) The method of claim 29, wherein the preset content-based specification set is selected via a dedicated function key.

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(New) The method of claim 29, wherein selection of the preset content-based specification set is effected in response to entry of a valid passcode.

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(New) The method of claim 29, wherein selection of the preset content-based specification set is effected in response to entry of valid user information.